

one or more individuals of *Thalassogeron chlororhynchus*, *Daption capensis*, *Halobæna cœrulea*, and *Fregetta grallaria*.

We caught many of the birds on fishhooks, hauling them down from the air as animated kites, or, in the case of the larger, heavier species, dragging them in along the surface of the water. A Giant Petrel (*Macronectes*) was the first to fall a victim, after which we captured specimens of *Diomedea exulans*, *Puffinus anglorum*, *Procellaria æquinoctialis*, and *Daption*. The "Cape hens" (*P. æquinoctialis*) were very aggressive, driving the Shearwaters and smaller Petrels away from the trailing bait, diving beneath the surface in their efforts to seize it, and even fighting with the Albatrosses and *Macronectes*. Whenever the vessel paused in her course for an instant, owing to the rolling seas, there would be a tremendous hurly-burly of birds battling over the treacherous bait.

The photograph thoroughly demonstrates how clearly the diagnostic characters of birds can be shown in even a brief and distant glimpse. For except in the case of the bird I have labelled *Puffinus anglorum*, an ornithologist familiar with living Tubinares could identify almost every bird in the picture. Particularly characteristic are the poses of *Profinus* (No. 7) and *Phæbetria* (No. 3), even though the actual pictures are minute and scarcely more than silhouettes. The blurred *Macronectes*, also, "standing on end" and wheeling, has a certain stiffness and straightness of wing which the field-student of Tubinares will recognize at once as being peculiar to the species.

XVII.—Obituary.

GERALD EDWIN HAMILTON BARRETT-HAMILTON.

It is with great regret that we have to record the sudden death, by heart failure, of Major Barrett-Hamilton, M.B.O.U., in South Georgia, in the Antarctic, on January the 17th. At the end of last year he had been commissioned by the

Colonial Office and the Natural History Museum to lead an expedition to that desolate spot, to investigate and report on the condition of the whale and seal fisheries in the island.

Barrett-Hamilton, who was the eldest son of the late Captain Samuel Barrett-Hamilton, J.P., of Kilmanock, Co. Waterford, Ireland, was born on May the 18th, 1871, and was educated at Harrow, and subsequently at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1894. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1896. From his school-days he was interested in Natural History, and he wrote an excellent list of Harrow birds published as one of the Harrow School Scientific Memoirs in 1892.

After taking his degree he was appointed to accompany Prof. D'Arcy Thompson, who was sent by the Colonial Office in 1896 to make a joint investigation with a Commission from the United States Government, on the condition of the fur seals and the industry in the north Pacific and Behring Sea. Leaving England in 1896, and travelling via San Francisco and Japan, Barrett-Hamilton reached Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka in July, and spent the summer in the Seal Islands. In the following year he again returned, this time via Egypt and Ceylon. Some account of his travels was published in the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* for 1898 (pp. 280-299), and the '*Scottish Geographical Magazine*' for 1899 (pp. 225-256), while he wrote for '*The Ibis*' (1900, pp. 271-298) an interesting account of the birds of Kamchatka which he met with during those journeys, and described from there a new species of Nutcracker (*Caryocatactes kamchatkensis*).

Barrett-Hamilton joined the 5th or Militia Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles in 1893, and served with them in 1901-2 in South Africa during the Boer war. The greater part of his time he was stationed at Vredefort Road Station on the railway between Bloemfontein and Johannesburg, a desolate spot, but he was able to make large collections of birds and mammals, which he sent home to the British Museum, and so beguiled the tedium of his job. He obtained the Queen's

medal and five clasps, and was given the rank of Hon. Captain in the army for his services in the field.

Mammals perhaps rather than birds engrossed Barrett-Hamilton's interest, especially of late years, and most of his published work relates to the higher order. After returning from the Pacific he spent a great deal of his time at the Natural History Museum as a voluntary worker in the Mammal department, where he published a long series of papers on palæartic Mammals. At the time of his death he was engaged on an authoritative work on the British Mammals, of which about half the numbers have appeared. It is a great satisfaction to hear that arrangements have been made to complete this work.

Barrett-Hamilton was elected a member of the Union in 1889, and in addition to the paper on the birds of Kamchatka, wrote in 1903 for 'The Ibis' an interesting account of his observations on the flight and distribution of the Albatrosses of the north Pacific. In the same year he discussed (Proc. Irish Acad. xxiv. 1903, pp. 303-314) a favourite theory of his, by which he endeavoured to explain physiologically the cause of the whitening of mammals and birds in snowy countries. He believed that this was connected with the cessation of metabolism and the deposit of fat. He also made a number of shorter contributions to 'The Zoologist' and 'Irish Naturalist' on various points of Irish ornithology.

In Barrett-Hamilton we lose a most enthusiastic zoologist, an indefatigable and thoughtful collector, and a charming personality, beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Like Wilson and Boyd Alexander, he is cut off in his prime, before he has had time to do his life's work, and we cannot but feel great sorrow that we have lost so many of our younger and promising naturalists during the last few years.

He married in 1903, Maude Charlotte, daughter of Mrs. Sarah Clibborn Eland, of Ravenshill, Transvaal, and she and six young children survive him.

FREDERICK VAVASOUR McCONNELL.

WE regret to have to record the death, on January the 26th, of Mr. McConnell; he had been in indifferent health for some time, and underwent an operation in London on January the 17th, from the effects of which he never recovered.

Born in 1868, he was the second son of the late Mr. John McConnell, who for many years was resident in British Guiana.

F. V. McConnell was an ardent naturalist, and when in British Guiana did not confine himself to the coast lands, but made several expeditions into the interior, and he was one of the first to ascend Mount Roraima. This he did in company with Mr. J. J. Quelch and Mr. C. A. Lloyd in 1894, spending three days and two nights on the plateau at the summit.

He made a second expedition to Mount Roraima, with Mr. J. J. Quelch, in the months of August, September, and October, 1898. During this journey a collection of zoological specimens was made which furnished several new species in various branches of zoology, and the following new forms were named after him:—*Rhipidomys macconnelli*, *Zonotrichia macconnelli*, *Oreophrynella macconnelli*, *Odontopeltis macconnelli*, and *Trechalea macconnelli*. The collection was presented to the Trustees of the British Museum and deposited in the Department of Zoology. The various groups were described by the officials of that institution, and the report published in the Transactions of the Linnean Society, Zoology (2) viii. 1900, pp. 51-76.

McConnell, though interested in zoology generally, directed his special attention to ornithology and became a member of the B.O.U. in 1900; he restricted his collecting area to the confines of British Guiana, where he had important interests. He made a good representative collection of the avifauna, and placed on record several species not previously known to occur in that Colony. It was he who obtained an example of Jardine's Goshawk (*Astur jardinei*

Gurney) in British Guiana, previously to which the habitat of this species was unknown; he also obtained specimens of Riker's Pointed-tail (*Berlepschia rikeri* Ridgway), which was previously known only from Santarem in Brazil. McConnell described two new forms from British Guiana, *Neopipo helenæ* and *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus guianensis*, in the Bulletin of the Club (vol. xxvii. 1911, p. 105); the types of these are in his collection.

McConnell had for some time been preparing a list of the species in his collection, giving the localities where the specimens had been obtained, with the object of throwing some light on the distribution of the birds in that portion of South America. The manuscript is well advanced towards completion, and it is intended to publish it in book form in the near future.

C. C.

ALBERT CHARLES LUDWIG GOTTHILF GÜNTHER.

Dr. GÜNTHER, who was for so many years Keeper of Zoology in the British Museum, died on February the 1st last, in his 84th year. He was the son of Friedrich Gotthilf Günther, Estates Bursar of Möhringen, and was born at Esslingen, in Württemberg, October 3, 1830. He was educated at Tübingen, where he took his Ph.D. in 1852, and also at Bonn and Berlin Universities. He qualified as a medical man, doing part of his work at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, and taking a medical degree at Tübingen in 1862, and although he had a door-plate on his residence at Surbiton, he did little to gain a practice, as he was already deeply interested in zoology and was working at the British Museum, where he was appointed on the staff in 1857, and rose in 1875 to be Keeper of the Zoological Department, a post which he held until he retired at the age of 65 in 1895.

Dr. Günther's most enduring fame rests on the immense amount of systematic work which he did among the lower vertebrates. The Catalogue of Fishes in the British Museum in eight volumes is a monument of erudition and research,

and it was followed by many other reports, catalogues, and publications on fishes and reptiles, in quick succession, but his claim to the gratitude of ornithologists undoubtedly rests on the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, which he initiated and carried through. Except for the last issued—the 26th, the whole of the twenty-seven volumes were brought out under his superintendence and the prefaces signed by him. Another claim to the gratitude not only of ornithologists, but of all zoologists, is that Günther was the originator and founder of the 'Zoological Record,' the first six volumes of which (1864–1870) he himself edited.

Dr. Günther became a member of the B.O.U. in 1876, and resigned only in 1910, but he did little direct work in ornithology. He contributed a paper to 'The Ibis' in 1865, in which he described as new the form of the Long-tailed Tit inhabiting Asia Minor, now known as *Ægithalos caudatus tephronotus*, and put in a plea for the recognition of Moehring's generic name *Orites* for this group. In 'The Ibis' for 1886 (p. 207) he defends his action in having the Golden Orioles in the mounted groups in the Natural History Museum represented with cherries in their bills, and asserts that they devour that fruit in considerable quantities, according to his own observations. One other short paper ('The Ibis,' 1896, p. 411) deals with the curious tubercular pad on the "heel" of the young Wryneck.

After his retirement from the Museum, Günther took up his residence near Kew Gardens, and there devoted a great deal of time to Aviculture. He was very successful in breeding some of the more difficult species, such as the Red-backed Shrike, and contributed a number of articles on this subject to the 'Avicultural Magazine.' Günther became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1867, and served as a Vice-President in 1875–6, and in 1878 he received one of the gold medals. He was President of the Biological Section of the British Association in 1880, and of the Linnean Society from 1898 to 1901. He became a Fellow of the Zoological Society in 1862 and served on its Council almost continuously from 1868 to 1905, and as Vice-President from

1874–1905. It is as a great systematist that Günther will be remembered, but, as is shown by his work ‘An Introduction to the Study of Fishes,’ he took a good deal of interest in structure and life-history and other problems apart from the discrimination of species and classification. He was twice married, and his eldest son, Mr. R. T. Günther, who is a fellow and tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford, is a distinguished zoologist, antiquary, and writer.

XVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Baker on Indian Pigeons.

[Indian Pigeons and Doves. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S., F.L.S., M.B.O.U. Pp. xvi+260, 27 plates. London (Witherby). 8vo. 50s.]

No separate work on the Columbidae of India has hitherto appeared, and we must congratulate Mr. Stuart Baker on having followed up his well-known ‘Indian Ducks and their Allies’ with a companion volume on the Pigeons. No one is more competent to deal with this subject than our author, since he has not only spent the greater part of his life in India, where he has had unrivalled opportunities of observing and studying the birds in their native haunts, but he has also a very good Museum-knowledge of the birds, and is thus enabled to present a very complete epitome of how and where to shoot and collect Indian Pigeons, but also of our present knowledge of their nomenclature and classification.

The total number of species and subspecies dealt with numbers fifty-one, and about half of them are depicted on the twenty-seven coloured plates specially prepared by Mr. Grönvold.

Mr. Baker discusses at some length the question of whether the typical Blue Rock-Pigeon (*Columba l. livia*) ever occurs in India. He finds in the British Museum only two examples (from Ladak) which he believes are really identical with the European form, while a good many others which have been referred to it are really intermediate between this and the true Indian subspecies (*C. l. intermedia*) with